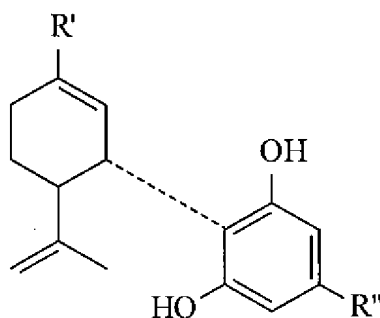


**Claims:**

Claims 1 and 2 (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing as active ingredient a compound of the formula:



Formula I

wherein:

- R' designates a —COOH or —CH<sub>2</sub>OH group, and
  - R'' designates (i) a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> alkyl group, or (ii) an —OR''' group wherein R''' designates a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group, or a straight or branched C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>9</sub> alkyl group substituted with a phenyl group on the terminal carbon atom, or (iii) a —(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>—O—C<sub>1-5</sub> alkyl group, wherein n is an integer of from 1 to 7;
- with the proviso that R' is not —CH<sub>2</sub>OH when R'' is pentyl or dimethylheptyl, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof and

further comprising at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, additive, excipient or diluent.

4. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, comprising an additional pharmaceutically active agent.

Claims 5-19 (Canceled)

20. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3, wherein R' is  $-\text{COOH}$  and R'' is a pentyl or dimethylheptyl group.

- 21 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 3 wherein the compound is an optically pure (+) enantiomer.